



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Eva Ackerman and Randy Gene Clark

Serial No.: 09/764,572

Filed: January 18, 2001

For: A Method of Assisting a
Compromised Barrier

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Atty. Dkt. No.: 041443-00752

Group Art Unit: 2831

Examiner: Patel, Dhiru

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 11, 2003

In response to the Office Action of 11 July 2003 in the above-referenced matter, please
add/cancel/amend the following claims as indicated:

23. (Previously added)

A method of assisting a compromised barrier, comprising:

- a) providing a gasket comprising fire retardant material;
- b) placing the fire retardant gasket between a faceplate and an electrical box
adapted to be introduced into the barrier;
- c) coupling the faceplate to the box; and
- d) at least partially reestablishing a fire rating of the barrier.

24. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, further comprising coupling the gasket *in situ* between the
faceplate and the box.

25. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, wherein providing the gasket comprises forming the gasket as a separate element prior to placing the gasket between the faceplate and the box.

26. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, further comprising forming the gasket on one or more surfaces of the faceplate prior to coupling the faceplate to the box.

27. (Previously added)

The method of claim 26, wherein the gasket is formed by establishing a coating of the fire retardant material onto the faceplate.

28. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, wherein the fire retardant material comprises intumescent material.

29. (Previously added)

The method of claim 23, wherein the fire retardant material comprises fire resistant insulative material.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended)

A method of assisting a compromised barrier, comprising:

a) providing a faceplate for an electrical box adapted to be introduced into the barrier;

b) forming a layer onto ~~gasket on~~ the faceplate, the layer consisting of a gasket comprising fire retardant material;

c) coupling the faceplate to the box; and

d) at least partially reestablishing a fire rating of the barrier.

36. (Previously added)

The method of claim 35, wherein the gasket is formed by establishing a coating of the fire retardant material onto the faceplate.

37. (Currently Amended)

A method of assisting a compromised barrier, comprising:

a) installing into a fire-rated barrier an electrical box, the electrical box compromising the fire resistance of the fire-rated barrier;

b) introducing into the electrical box a layer consisting of a fire retardant gasket;
and

c) covering the electrical box with a faceplate.

38. (Previously added)

The method of Claim 37, wherein the fire retardant gasket is adhered to the faceplate prior to covering the electrical box with the faceplate.

39. (Previously added)

The method of Claim 37, wherein the fire retardant gasket is an intumescent gasket.

40. (Previously added)

The method of Claim 37, wherein the fire retardant gasket is introduced to the electrical box without removing the electrical box from the fire resistant barrier.

41. (Previously added)

The method of Claim 37, wherein the fire retardant gasket is a fire resistant insulative material.

42. (Previously added)

The method of Claim 41, wherein the fire resistant insulative material is mineral wool, ceramic fiber or intumescent graphite.

43. (New)

A method of assisting a compromised barrier, comprising:

a) providing a faceplate for an electrical box adapted to be introduced into the barrier;

b) placing a layer between the faceplate and an electrical box adapted to be introduced into the barrier, the layer consisting of a fire retardant gasket;

c) coupling the faceplate to the box; and

d) at least partially reestablishing a fire rating of the barrier.

44. (New)

The method of claim 43, wherein the fire retardant gasket comprises intumescent material.

45. (New)

The method of claim 43, wherein the fire retardant gasket comprises fire resistant insulative material.